

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 102-0015	
	Property Name(s): <u>First Baptist Church</u>	
	Property Date(s): <u>1912</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post	Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Property Address: <u>One Virginia Street</u>	City: <u>Bristol</u> Zip: <u>24201</u>
	County or Ind. City: <u>Bristol</u>	USGS Quad(s): <u>Bristol TN</u>

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 5 Setting (choose one): ☒Urban ☐Town ☐Village ☐Suburban ☐Rural ☐Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The church is sited at the edge of downtown Bristol, immediately north of the Tennessee state line, which runs down the middle of State Street. The main part of the church, the sanctuary, faces west toward Virginia Street. State Street, which is Bristol's main downtown thoroughfare, runs along the south side of the sanctuary, while Goodson Street bounds the east side of the church property. Buford Street bounds the north side of the church property, beyond Annex Building No. 2.

Secondary Resource Description:

Annex Building No. 1 is a long, one-story, flat-roofed light-industrial building sited across Virginia Street in front of the church. The building fronts onto Washington St. to the west. The larger part of annex building no. 1 was constructed in 1931 by Andy Smith Construction of Bristol. Originally the building housed Carolyn Manufacturing Textile Company.

Annex Building No. 2 is sited along Buford St., north of the church's education wing. Another one-story, flat-roofed, light-industrial building constructed in 1946 by Andy Smith Construction Company, it originally housed S.P. Rutherford Transfer Company and was used for storage of furniture.

Ownership Category: ☒Private ☐Public-Local ☐Public-State ☐Public-Federal

Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource?

Baptist Church

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Baptist Church

Architectural style or elements of styles: Neo-Classical Revival

Architect, builder, or original owner: C.B. Kearfott, architect; McCary Brothers Construction Company; E.S. Glover Construction Co.

of stories 3 Condition: ☐Excellent ☒Good ☐Fair ☐Deteriorated ☐Poor ☐Ruins ☐Rebuilt ☐Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? No

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation:

Poured Concrete

Structure:

Brick, Cinder Block, Wood

Walls:

Brick, Flemish bond with darkened headers

Windows:

78 hinged casement, 110 double-hung sash. Some sanctuary windows replaced in 1948 after a nearby explosion (see below). Roman lattice clerestory windows and doorway transoms.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch.

The porch roof is clad with standing-seam metal. The floor is tile with large concrete columns. The tiles on the steps have been removed and replaced by concrete due to age and broken tile.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

Pitched front-gable and flat roofs with standing-seam metal and membrane, respectively.

Chimney(s):

None

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

First Baptist Church is located in downtown Bristol, Virginia. The sanctuary and the educational wing are brick structures. Two adjacent annex buildings are cinder block.

The original portion of the church, the sanctuary, is an imposing Neo-classical Revival temple-form masonry building that approximates the overall design of the Virginia State Capitol. Across the front are six monumental Ionic columns supporting a robust entablature and pediment. The pediment tympanum consists of plain Flemish-bond brickwork with a checkerboard pattern of darkened header bricks. The inset lower façade features three sets of folding entry doors with Roman lattice transoms. Above each doorway is a square, fixed plate-glass window with Roman lattice tracery. Across each side elevation, the window bays are divided by brick pilasters with cast-concrete bases and capitols. The building was constructed by McCary Brothers Construction Company of Bristol. The architectural drawings are dated April 1911 by prolific local architect Clarence Baker Kearfott (1884- ca. 1975). There is an engraved concrete plate on the front of the building dated 1912. The large two-story education wing was completed in 1964, also with architectural drawings by C.B. Kearfott. Construction was completed by E.S. Glover Construction Company of Bristol.

Many of the church sanctuary windows, which dated from the construction of the building, were heavily damaged by the explosion of a gasoline station located diagonally across State Street in February 1947. New windows were installed in 1948, enclosed in a one-piece steel frame and covered by clear fiberglass. All other windows are original to the 1912 main building and the 1964 education wing. The asphalt shingle roof on the sanctuary has been replaced with a metal roof. The wooden main entry doors are original to 1912. The

church interior is a beautiful open space with original pews, large columns, stained glass windows, a chandelier and pipe organ.

The large, two-story 1962 educational wing is a very functional building with rooms for Sunday school complete with a nursery. A local daycare, Creative Learning Center, rents the educational space during the day for preschool, accepting children ages 3-5 years. The educational wing's flat roof was replaced with a TPO membrane material in April 2012 due to hail damage.

[Sources: All sources of the above historical information and architects drawings are located at the church.]

Annex Buildings

The church holds two previously unassociated historic cinderblock buildings, here referred to as Annex Building No.1 and Annex Building No. 2, purchased in 1999 and 2012 respectively:

Annex Building No. 1 is a long, one-story, flat-roofed light-industrial building sited across Virginia Street in front of the church. At the north end of the building is an older (construction date and early usage unknown) front-gabled brick section that originally stood alone. The whole building fronts onto Washington St. to the west. The larger part of annex building no. 1 was constructed in 1931 by Andy Smith Construction of Bristol. Originally the building housed Carolyn Manufacturing Textile Company. [City of Bristol, Virginia, Building Inspection and Permits Division.] It now houses the church's community food pantry and clothes closet. Annex Building No. 1's flat roof was replaced with a TPO membrane material in April 2012 due to hail damage.

Annex Building No. 2 is sited along Buford St., north of the church's education wing. Another one-story, flat-roofed, light-industrial building constructed in 1946 by Andy Smith Construction Company, it originally housed S.P. Rutherford Transfer Company and was used for storage of furniture. [City of Bristol, Virginia, Building Inspection and Permits Division.] The building is planned to become the church's youth/children activity center. The SP Rutherford Annex building has a flat asphalt shingle roof which is original according to the documentation in our possession.

Significance Statement:

The roots of First Baptist Church go back to 1859 when it was established as Goodson Baptist Church, organized by Elder William Cate of Jonesboro, Tennessee. The present-day City of Bristol was then known as Goodson. The church name became Bristol Baptist Church in 1888 and First Baptist Church of Bristol, Virginia from 1895 to the present. The extant Neo-classical sanctuary was designed in 1911 by local architect Clarence B. Kearfott and construction was completed by a local firm the following year.

The earliest known recorded history of Bristol, including the history of local churches, is preserved in an Industrial Supplement of the Bristol Courier, published on October 2, 1904. The church began with seven members and had grown to 475 members when their article was published in 1904. The present membership of First Baptist Church is 600.

The present buildings lie just beyond Bristol's landmark sign and restored historic Train Station.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☒
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

H. Wayne Ballard

Interim Minister
First Baptist Church

(Name)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
c/o First Baptist Church, One Virginia St.	Bristol	VA	24201

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

wballard@cn.edu

865-933-8452

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: 12/5/2012

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Tom Parker

Daytime Telephone: (276) 591-3191 or (276) 791-1008 (mobile)

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Tom Parker

301 Henrys Lane

Bristol

VA

24202

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

parkert@bvumet

(276) 591-3191 or (276) 791-1008

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Dewey Cashwell

City Manager

Bristol

300 Lee Street

(Locality)

(Address)

Bristol

VA

24201

276-645-7333

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

To help preserve the church.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☒ No ☐